

(Of medical nostrums): 11 y a une chose
plus difficile
encore que de s'astreindre à, une regime,
c'est de ne pas
l'imposer aux autres.'

'Les "quoique" sont toujours des "parceque"
inconnus.'

'Toute mort est pour les autres une
simplification
d'existence.'

'Gouts inseparables chez les femmes du
monde, de
s'instruire et de s'encanailler.'

'Vous m'aimez, ma chere petite; comment
avez-vous
été assez cruelle pour le dire?'

'La regie—qui comporte des exceptions
naturelles—que
les durs sont de faibles dont on n'a pas
voulu, et que les
forts, se souciant peu qu'on veuille ou non
d'eux, ont
seuls cette douceur que le vulgaire prend
pour de la
faiblesse/

Such generalisations were for him a
passionate comfort.
He was like a doctor consoled for a cancer
which tortures
him by fascinated interest in its symptoms (to
which was
added in Proust, I think, a certain morbid
pleasure in
pain). Thus Marcel takes a perverse delight
in tracking;
down after Albertine's death her infidelities.
They still
agonise him with jealousy; but he is
comforted by the
discovery that his instinctive misgivings had
been right,
in the teeth of his 'miserable optimisme'⁵. 'La
realite la plus
terrible donne en meme temps que la
souffrance la joie
d'une belle decouverte.' 'Belle découverte?'
one may
sometimes ask, of such investigations as
these. But this
love of bitter and ironic truth tends in him, as

in Webster,
in Swift and at moments even in Hardy, to
become a
mania. It is delightful enough when it
playfully invents
the 'Due de Guermantes' formula for
telegrams: Im-
possible venir, mensonge suit/ But not when
it becomes
a delight to him for its own sake, so that he
has no longer
eyes for human charm, 'comme le chirurgien
qui sous le